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INPORT NEWS

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■ TWITTER AND FACEBOOK

Wainfleet joins the social network

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — While Marshville Heritage Village celebrates Wainfleet's past, the township has embraced the future, too, with Twitter and Facebook accounts.

see **FACEBOOK** page 2

■ WIND POWER: Skydive Burnaby worried about business



In this file photo, The Parachutists over 40 Society, better known as POPs, set a new Canadian record by completing a 32-man formation jump at Skydive Burnaby. Skydive Burnaby owners Mike Pitt and his wife, Tara, are worried to wind tower two turbines proposed by Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc., to be located on Station Rd., could hurt their business.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Brad Vale, Skydive Burnaby

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Mike Pitt is all in favour of green energy, but is worried two proposed wind turbines could devastate his business.

Pitt and his wife, Tara, operate Skydive Burnaby on Burnaby Rd. in Wainfleet.

Two turbines proposed by Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. to be located on Station Rd. are the couple's main concern.

The turbines would be part of a wind farm owned locally by the Loeffen family, and developed by IPC Energy.

Pitt is concerned about the location of the turbines due to skydivers jumping from planes west of the field and turbines.

The distance between the Station Rd. turbines and the skydive business is about 3.5 kilometres in a straight line.

"There are times we'll jump out five kilometres to the west of the field and we'd be coming back right over those turbines."

see **SKYDIVE** page 2

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Potential danger posed to skydivers in Vanleet

FROM PAGE 1

He said skydivers could end up bring between 150 and 200 metres above the turbines as they head back to the field. There's always a possibility they could be lower and become entangled in the blades of a turbine or hit the tower itself, he added.

Turbines spinning in the wind could also create turbulence far above that could play havoc with parachutes, Pitt said.

Pitt isn't too concerned about his planes as they can fly around the turbines with no problem.

But another issue is possible radio interference from the turbines, he said, adding first-time skydivers are taken down via a radio strapped to their chest.

The Pitts raised all of their concerns at a public meeting in January and also filed out a survey led by IPC.

"I never heard back from them until a couple of weeks ago."

Pitt received a 480-page copy of IPC's proposal for the location of turbines for the Loeffen wind farm. It was then he learned of the two for the east side of Station Rd.

The owner of SkyDive Burnaby, who has been skydiving since he was 16 and hanging around the field since he was nine, believes the two turbines on Station Rd. will be moved to other locations north of Hwy. 3 in the township.

"Those turbines could be devastating to our operation and they could kill us. It's a therapeutic place for people

to come and enjoy themselves while they're here. This business puts a roof over our head ... and it's been around since '68."

Pitt expressed his concerns to IPC and also to Mayor April Jeffs and MPP Peter Kormos. Jeffs said she plans to meet with Pitt in the new year to work over the issue and will meet with IPC as well.

"We are taking the concerns of all residents seriously

and will protect the public as much as we can," said the mayor, adding IPC is to hold a public meeting sometime in February.

Tom Lewis, manager of planning and environment at IPC Energy, said the company has listened to Pitt's concerns and will try and work with the business owner.

"We asked him for more information on how he arrived at his opinion and

how we can move forward. We asked him how the turbines will negatively impact his business. We have tried to address some of his concerns," said Lewis, adding the company does not want to put someone out of business.

He said Pitt requested the two towers on Station Rd. either be moved north of Hwy. 3 or to the west side of Station.

"Due to setbacks and the

availability of property, that's not possible. We'd also take a loss if we had to move towers further north of the lake."

Moving the turbines to the west side of Station Rd., he said, would only be a matter of 200 metres distance at most. He didn't see how that would stand true to it. The company could have put more towers between Station Rd. and Skydive

Burnaby and more along the lake.

"We've chosen not to use those sites. IPC has no intention of moving any turbines closer to the landing strip," said Lewis, adding the company gave a "gentleman's verbal agreement" to Pitt on that and will stand true to it.

IPC has also worked with Transport Canada and NAV Canada from the beginning to deal with issues surrounding the skydive operation and planes in general.

As for possible communication problems, in a release sent to The Tribune, the company said, "We have also consulted with the Radio Advisory Board of Canada, Department of National Defence, Canadian Coast Guard and Industry Canada's Spectrum Management and Telecommunications division. To date, no radio communication interference concerns have been identified as a result of our consultation activities with these agencies, but we will continue to keep them informed as the project progresses."

Lewis said the Wainfleet Wind Energy Project has not received an approval from Ministry of Environment, nor has it submitted the required supporting documentation/ reports to receive an approval.

"It's still in the middle ... it's still an ongoing process," he said, adding there will be a public meeting with the public about the project.

For more information on the Wainfleet Wind Energy Project see www.wainfleet-windenergy.ca.

Skydivers write to politicians about wind turbine worries

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Supporters of Skydive Burnaby have started to send letters to local and provincial politicians over two proposed wind turbines in close proximity to the business's Burnaby Rd. field.

Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. plans to install a number of wind turbines, as part of a wind farm, in the township, with two being located on the east side of Station Rd. The company is locally-owned by the Loeffen family and the wind farm is being developed by IPC Energy.

The two turbines on Station Rd. are to be 1.7 km (or 3.5 km, as previously reported) west of the field in a straight line. Skydive Burnaby owners Mike and Tara Pitt said jumpers could end up right over the towers some days.

The Pitts said there are times when skydivers jump up to 5 km west of the field due to wind conditions. Their flight path back to the

club would take them near or over the two proposed wind turbines.

"The installation of the turbines will not only affect Skydive Burnaby, but local businesses that depend on serving the skydiver community, people who visit Skydive Burnaby," said skydiver Matvei Fradin in one letter to both Wainfleet township council and the office of MPP Peter Kormos, obtained by The Tribune.

"It will affect all infrastructure that was built around Skydive Burnaby for the last 55 years, it will affect Canadian skydiving, its history and heritage. It will affect you and me, it will affect Canada."

Skydiver Laszlo Pasky wrote, "While I am a very strong supporter of renewable energy, as with most changes, there has to be a well thought out balance between the existing use of the lands and airspace and what is being proposed. I am not suggesting by any stretch of the imagination that these towers

should not be installed. What I am saying is that they need to be moved to a location that would not impact our safety and safe enjoyment of a sport that has been at this location for over 50 years."

Polyak also said, "Some weekends there are bus loads of people coming from corporations to experience the thrill of skydiving for the first time. Mike and Tara Pitt have done an exceptional job of balancing the business with the feel of a family environment."

IPC Energy has said it is taking the club's concerns seriously and is trying to address them as best it can.

It too, has sent letters to provincial politicians. In an e-mail sent to Kormos' office, IPC said, "Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. has no intention of constructing a wind energy facility that will negatively impact the surrounding community. We are established local businesses such as Skydive Burnaby to shut down operations."

minute news and events.

"For instance, if we update the Facebook and Twitter status at 3 p.m. on a Tuesday to remind everyone of a council meeting, the two sites are more likely to see that feed than visit our website. We can do the same for any events or even a highway roadwork/ bridge closures."

Residents can add comments and start discussions on Facebook and reply to tweets on Twitter.

"Myself, council and staff can all post updates, though there may be lapses of a day or so where the information remains the same," the mayor said, adding the two sites are not time-consuming.

She said the township is unsure of the fate of its monthly newsletter, but said it will be visited by Niagara Region in the past and that's why she started the two social media pages.

"Between the bi-monthly mayor's column (to be found

in InPort News), enhancing the township's website and utilizing social media, we can keep residents of all ages apprised of the happenings within our community."

Wainfleet's fan page on Facebook can be found at www.facebook.com/WainfleetOntario or pages.Wainfleet.ca. It is a s h 1p/152375544812405 and its Twitter account can be found at <http://twitter.com/#!/WainfleetOnt>.

■ FACEBOOK

Popular websites will help keep residents informed of events

FROM PAGE 1

Mayor April Jeffs took it upon herself to create the social media accounts last week.

She decided to do Facebook and Twitter because so many other municipalities do both within Niagara and beyond. "I had thought about it before being elected because social media was so effective during my campaign and really engaged the youth," Jeffs said in an interview conducted via

Facebook.

She said her council is very dedicated to engaging the community and believes the two social media sites are an effective way to keep the community updated on what's happening.

"I think these links will be helpful for our residents and direct more traffic to it and vice versa. I think it's important to keep the official website up. It and their social sites will complement each other."

Jeffs didn't think all the information found on the township's website would be enough. "I would be the same on Facebook and Twitter," she said.

Facebook and Twitter sites generally be used for up-to-



April Jeffs

portraits

■ NEW YEARS EVE: Casco sponsors kids carnival

Family skate, fireworks highlight Port event



Top left, Joshua Muscat takes a slap shot at the goal while Port Colborne Pirates' player Bryan Agoston watches on. Above, Tara Stenson and her son Noah enjoy the free skating at the Casco Kidz Carnival. At left, Avery Kane is all smiles as she decorates at the cookie decorating station.

CHRISTOPHER FORTIER
for InPort News

PORT COLBORNE — Westside Arena was filled with the laughter of many children as the Casco Kidz Carnival took place last week.

The event, which is in its fifth year sponsored by Casco, featured free skating from 2 to 5:45 p.m., with activities, such as a hockey shootout, face-painting, spin-art and cookie decorating and capped off with a fireworks show promptly at 6 p.m.

The arena was filled with many families just enjoying the chance to skate or spend some quality time together. Smiles adorned everyone in attendance, including the volunteers and organizers.

"It's a community event and we want to give back to the community. We wanted to give the people of Port Colborne something different to do," Anna Oakes, Casco's Port Colborne services manager, said.

"I think that by this time most of the holiday events are winding down and this gives us an opportunity to bring the families out in the afternoon and that way the parents can still enjoy their evening."

She said many local businesses helped out, such as Stoik Construction, which provided the games, No Frills, which donated items for the cookie decorating station, as well as Bartlett Transport and Pro Style Flooring.

The event is something both Oakes and the City of Port Colborne's special events coordinator, Alaina Kane, both said they enjoy doing.

"It's a fun way to end the year," Kane said.

Oakes said the money raised through the various activities went to area food banks.

The skating ended at 5:45 to allow families to go outside for the fireworks display. Even with the rain coming down, many stayed to watch the brilliant display, taking place at the baseball diamonds adjacent to the arena.

Once completed, the fireworks show received a round of applause via honking car horns.

"It's a wonderful community event," Kane said.

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Sharing the air

Windflett Wind Energy Inc. and Skydive Burnaby both use green energy for their business.

While the wind energy company hasn't yet received approval to build a wind farm in the township, two of its proposed locations for wind turbines are already in operation for Skydive Burnaby.

Two towers are proposed for Station Rd., 1.5 kilometres west, in a straight line, of the skydiving club's field. Skydive Burnaby owner Mike Pitt isn't opposed to wind turbines — he's in favour of green energy — but is worried the turbines will devastate his business.

"There are times we'll jump out five kilometres to the west of the field and we'll be coming back right over those turbines," Pitt told InPort News recently.

He said skydivers could end up being between 150 and 200 metres above the turbines as they head back to the field. There's always a possibility they could be lower and become entangled in the blades of a turbine or hit the tower itself, he added.

Turbines spinning in the wind could also create turbulence far above that could play havoc with parachutes, Pitt said, adding he isn't too concerned about his planes as they can fly around the turbines with no problem.

Another issue is possible radio interference from the turbines, he said, adding first-time skydivers are talking down via a headset to their descent.

Pitt and his wife, Tara, put all those concerns in written down on a survey form presented by IPC Energy, the company developing the wind farm.

Tom Lewis, manager of planning and environment at IPC Energy, has said the company has listened to Pitt's concerns and will try and work with the business owner.

"We asked him for more information on how he arrived at his opinion and how we can move forward. We've asked him how the turbines will negatively impact his business. We have tried to address some of his concerns," said Lewis, adding the company does not want to put someone out of business.

The Pitts have shared their concerns to Windflett Mayor April Irla and MPP Peter Kormos and plan to hold a public meeting to discuss the issue.

IPC has said it will soon hold a public meeting in Windflett to talk more about the project.

While we understand there is growing opposition to wind farms for a myriad of reasons, wind farms are being approved throughout the provincial government.

If the wind farm in Windflett is approved, then something needs to be done to resolve the Pitt's fears and the goals of Windflett Wind Energy Inc.

We need to see their business hurt and neither should be

hurt. There is a solution that can be found that will satisfy the two parties.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

REV. GORD ABRAHAM
Port Colborne Baptist Church

Sitting in a breakfast restaurant, my wife and I began a conversation with another couple who were talking about, of all things, catastrophes in the world, and the constant appeals to give to the overwhelming needs.

Thankfully, many people are ready to respond to the news that another disaster has taken lives and wiped out communities and even whole areas in our world. The virtue of compassion is still alive. Money raised is usually in the millions of dollars and many organizations make their appeals through the Media with pictures and stories, as they plucky-back on the News and information updates.

The question asked in our conversation was, "Where is all this money going?" "Where is all this evidence of our help being put on the ground and into people's lives?"

These are very important questions, because there does seem to be big gaps between organizations receiving gifts of money from compassionate donors and actually seeing the needs met "on the ground." One example cited by this couple was the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

They claimed that they had heard that much of the money for Haiti has still not materialized into tangible help for the people who are still living in terrible

conditions. Again they asked, "Where is all this money?"

There is growing donor fatigue and cynicism. That cannot be denied. But how do we prevent our hearts from being hardened to fellow humans in desperate need because of poor organizational communication, limited infrastructures, slow moving bureaucracy in countries and unfortunately even graft and abuse of funds by some governments and officials?

Let me first suggest that you do not stop being compassionate to those in need. But, do not feel the pressure to give to every appeal and need, without thought, asking pointed questions and even prayer for wisdom.

Then, when disasters arise, and when appeals for funds come with graphic pictures, emotional music and well planned appeals, ask the organization or person on the telephone pointed questions. Don't give on impulse. Part of the problem is being asked to give without thought. In many cases you do not have to be given on impulse.

To help make wise and compassionate donations, ask the caller for organizational data that takes the form of admission fees are taken off of the gift. Look for the one that takes the least percentage. Ask for what and where the money you are giving will go specifically. Ask if there are people from the organization on the ground in the place of disaster who will have

some control over where that money will be spent and how the plans to help those in need will be implemented. They should also be able to protect abuse of that money more effectively and even call to stop the flow of money if there are problems of abuse.

Ask if you can have a specific report to as the post-disaster work. Ask for financial statements from the organization, they are required to provide these on request.

I have learned from experience that the organizations that have the best record of providing quick and reliable work on the ground are more than willing to be transparent and are often the faith-based organizations. They are there to help, not receive.

I know personally of Operation Mobilization Canada, here in Port Colborne, who have had over 50 years of ministry to others with their own workers on the ground. A few years ago I was in Pakistan with four young Pakistani men from Operation Mobilization Pakistan. I was amazed by their stories of going into the earthquake devastated area of their country and actually living with the homeless, helping them with the needs, and being welcomed in homes in other countries. They helped them rebuild their villages, schools and lives. These young men are my heroes. Trust those who serve with no thought of what they can get out of it. Have a great new year of wise compassion.

readers' views

Can't have it both ways

Rec It's Our Time campaign needs southern focus (Dec. 23).

I grew up in the UK and watched, and still follow, the decline of the National Health Service which for years has been supplemented by 'life support' supplied by private hospitals and staff and the private sector. It still continues to spiral out of economic control and will fail, just as Canada's 'universal health care' will fail. Governments, of any political colour, are just not competent to make intelligent business decisions.

I have a tremendous admiration for the communities in this area, who, in the past, funded, donated and struggled to build community hospitals, complete with emergency services and actually managed and administered them as businesses and kept them economically viable and effective.

In fairness to the NHS in some way say

whether the community hospitals in Port Colborne and Port Erie would still be economically effective in this day and age, but at least without the NHS it would be the community who had the say in what services were an afford and whether fund-raising was considered necessary would be carried out within those communities.

For Rob Neill to lecture our communities to support the NHS, regardless of the harm inflicted on our southern tier community by the NHS in recent years seems a bit arrogant.

I'm a retiree living in Wainfleet. It is little comfort to me to hear that the NHS's best efforts at protecting me that, should I suffer a heart attack in my home, an ambulance, if one is immediately available, will be able to take me to Port Colborne's Urgent Care Centre, there to be assessed and then taken up to the emergency facility in Welland, this after the inevitable wait time in Port, however short, and then always assum-

ing the ambulance has not already been dispatched elsewhere. Even breaking all the traffic laws and assuming everything runs smoothly throughout, my heart attack has to choose not to kill me in the more than an hour it would take me to be transported from my home to Welland to receive emergency care!

The NHS claims it is proud providers of "universal health care" funded by taxes paid by all of us (as federal, provincial and regional government) How can it claim it still needs additional voluntary taxes donated by local citizens? And particularly southern tier citizens whose health care needs continue to be decimated by the NHS Mr. Neill supports or strong? You can't have it both ways. If the NHS can truly offer 'universal health care' you should not need any voluntary contributions from anyone, should you?

Andrew Watts
Wainfleet

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■ **HOCKEY:** Wonder what they're charging for parking these days...

Going to the gold medal game — nice

As I write this, I sit like a kid counting down the days to Christmas.

Thanks to being spoiled returning Dec. 25, I'm anticipating going over to Buffalo Wednesday for the gold medal game of the World Junior Hockey Championships (WJHC). The tickets I received for Christmas are one of the most thoughtful gifts I can remember receiving.

As I sit writing this last Sunday morning — due to deadlines, I must submit this weekly column by Tuesday afternoon each week.

— Canada lost to Sweden and must play a game this afternoon against Switzerland to determine whether or not they go on.

I'm not counting the proverbial chickens. Swiss goalie Benjamin Gonz is a dynamo. At last year's tournament he led his team to a fourth-place finish, with the highlight being his incredible performance against Russia. The young goaltender stopped 50 of 52 shots in a 3-2 victory that sent the Russians packing. At the tournament's



George Duma
BY GEORGE

conclusion, he was selected the best goaltender, most deservedly so.

Frankly, at this point, with the hockey I've watched so far, if Canada is in the gold medal game, wonderful. If our team fails to make it that far, we're still guaranteed a whale of a game regardless. It's a no-lose situation.

The annual WJHC is my single most favourite sporting event of the entire calendar year. There is no other sports event that even comes close in terms of me looking forward to it. And my wife knows that.

I know now the wheels started turning as soon as she learned this year's WJHC would be in Buffalo. I don't even think now, a week after Christmas. I'm over the shock of opening up my Christmas morning gift, carefully disguised as a bookmark in my other gift,

The Bishop's Man by Linden MacIntyre. I was thrilled to get the book, one I've wanted ever since I covered it for *The Tribune* MacIntyre's reading at Roselawn as part of Bill Thomas's renowned authors' series last year.

The bookmark was wrapped neatly and inserted into the middle of the book. When I opened it, I literally just sat there and stared at the tickets, not quite being able to comprehend the whole thing.

Of course, by now the tournament is a thing of the past and the winner has been determined.

But I'm sure I had an amazing time at Wednesday's game.

The only issue I hope has resolved itself since early in the tournament is the whole

question of parking near the HSBC Arena.

It was upsetting and maddening to read about how parking lot owners were treating Canadians who were making the trek to the games involving Canada.

My good buddy, Niagara Falls Review reporter John Law, one of the most talented writers I've ever known in the business, wrote a terrific article on the issue for his paper.

Here's how John's article began:

After a two-hour wait to cross the Peace Bridge Tuesday, Andrea Perry thought the worst was over as she headed to the Canada-Czech Republic game at the HSBC Arena.

see DUMA page 6



QMI Agency

Canadians will face a long border wait to see World Junior games in Buffalo and then be faced with higher than usual parking fees.

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■ DUMA

Greed won't ruin an amazing event in Buffalo

FROM PAGE 4

Then it was time to park. As the Niagara Falls hockey buff pulled into a lot near the arena, she was shocked by the

sign charging \$40. Having been to several Buffalo Sabres games over the years, she has never seen the rates go past \$15.

It turns out she got a bargain. After parking by

the exit, the sign changed to \$50. Then, as hundreds more Canadian vehicles arrived about an hour before game time, it went up to \$60. Hockey fans flustered over the border

delay were furious.

"Some people were yelling at the parking attendants," she said. "They knew we were going over to support (Team Canada), as opposed to the

U.S. games that are pretty much empty."

Sure enough, as she headed back to the car after Canada's 7-2 victory, parking for the U.S.-Slovakia game later that night was \$10. It made for some more angry Canadians.

□ □ □
Appalling doesn't begin to describe this tactic by parking lot owners. Disgusting might be more like it. John's story goes on to describe more reactions of Canadians to the gouging they experienced around the arena and I'm wondering what to expect Wednesday.

Our routine for Sabres games when we go two or three times a year is to start out at Washington Square on Washington St. for wings and refreshments and then walk the few blocks to the arena. There's a great parking lot right next door to the bar with one of the nicest guys you could hope to meet as the attendant. We'll see what the rates are

Wednesday. Of course, if they are high, I'll know he's not to blame. It's his superiors who would deserve the tongue-lashing for their despicable actions. After all is said and done, however, I refuse to allow greed to ruin what will otherwise be an amazing evening with my best friend, purchaser of the tickets. We will bring extra cash and if parking costs skyrocket, we will pay the price, consider it the cost of doing business and go off on our merry way to enjoy the evening. Keeping the cup half full rather than half empty is always the route to take.

But we'll remain incredibly disappointed with the behaviour of some of our American residents.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at gd@dumacongress.ca

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■ COLUMN

Economy, transportation, health care on the city's early 2011 agenda

My first take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and prosperous New Year. 2011 is going to be busy in the City of Port Colborne.

In today's column, I will highlight our first quarter initiatives.

The city has just completed a pre-calculation process for the health and wellness centre and will release the tender in early January.

We expect to have the tenders back by mid-February, followed by a report to council. Based on the tenders coming back on budget, construction will begin in the spring.

The city is establishing a Downtown Business Area Community Improvement Plan, an East Side Waterfront Community Improvement Plan and a Brownfield Community Improvement Plan. These improvement plans are meant to aesthetically improve areas of our community similar to what we are currently completing on Main Street (Main Street/Gateway Community Improvement Plan).

In partnership with Niagara Region and the province, the city is strongly contributing to our destination as a Gateway Economic Centre. In establishing the Gateway Centre at the south end of the region, the province's intention is that local government and economic development activities will consider how to promote increased economic opportunities



Vance Badaway
MAYOR'S COLUMN

for cross border trade, goods movement and tourism. We expect to have the attributes expected to satisfy the province's intentions such as available lands, the associated transportation infrastructure, prime location and a robust workforce and industrial supply chain.

We have dedicated over 300 hectares of employment lands for future industrial growth, created a strong partnership with the private sector and have established an incentive package that targets both existing and new priority sectors, such as the wind energy manufacturing sector.

We are now in a position to drive our regional economic agenda by steering the economy in a direction which favours our strengths.

As part of the gateway economic centre, we are as well working toward the completion of "growth related" infrastructure improvements, including water and wastewater, the first leg of the Mid-Peninsula Corridor and the establishment of a Foreign Trade Zone which offers additional incentives for existing and future economic investment.

To ensure we receive global attention on a consistent basis, we

are implementing an aggressive regional/municipal marketing/branding campaign.

With respect to health care services, it is our full intention to continue the fight to ensure our community receives equitable access to health care. I am currently drafting an updated memorandum of understanding for presentation to the Niagara Health System and the Ministry of Health.

This memorandum describes our community's expectation to enhancing the level of health care services currently available at Port Colborne General Hospital and committing to a third party review, post Urgent Care Centre conversion.

This review must include other NHS sites that directly and indirectly affect patient care delivery to the citizens of Port Colborne and the region. The review must include EMS service delivery. The memorandum also outlines a process in which will develop a report card for reporting to the community in a collaborative manner after the review takes place.

Your new council is currently entering a strategic planning process and our 2011 budget deliberations. May I encourage you to get involved. Dates and times will be posted on our website and in our local media.

Mayor Vance Badaway will be writing a column every other month for InPort News.



LARRY BOGGIO
R.Ph., B.Sc., D.Sc., Dip. (Pharm.)

Ask Our Pharmacists



DONNIE EDWARDS
R.Ph., B.Sc., D.Sc., Dip. (Pharm.)

Otitis Media (Ear Infections)

About 75% of children will suffer from an ear infection before they reach one year of age. It is a common childhood ailment that is often treated inappropriately.

Many ear infections are caused by viruses and resolve on their own without antibiotic treatment. For every 15 children treated with antibiotics only one will have resolution within 48 hours. Also antibiotics can cause some adverse effects such as diarrhea, skin rashes, allergic responses, and an increase in antibiotic resistance. Most children who have ear infections can be treated with "watchful waiting".

In general healthy children six months and older can be treated with "watchful waiting". Children younger than this and those with other ailments should be treated with an antibiotic. If the oral temperature exceeds 39°C, there is severe ear pain, or your child is extremely ill, an antibiotic should also be considered. You can also ask your doctor for an antibiotic prescription to be used if your child is not improving on their own within 48 to 72 hours. (This way you don't have to make a repeat trip to the doctor).

If your child requires an antibiotic take careful note of the kind of medication and the dose being given. The drug of choice is Amoxicillin given at a high dose (80mg/kg/day) divided twice a day for five days. (If your child is less than two, or has had frequent infections, a ten day course should be given). For children with a penicillin allergy, clarithromycin (Biaxin) can also be given. There are other choices as well but the above are the most common starting place. If there is no improvement after two days of antibiotics the medication should be changed. If you are seeing a different physician make sure you inform them what type of antibiotic your child has had, and what dose they were on.

All children complaining of ear pain can be treated with ibuprofen (Advil), and/or acetaminophen (Tylenol). This will help to lessen any fever and reduce the pain caused by the infection.

To help reduce the risk of ear infections it is important to use frequent hand washing, and washing of toys, and linens on a regular basis. Breastfeeding until three months of age can also reduce the risk of infection in a child's first year. Limiting pacifier use and exposure to tobacco smoke can help, as well as limiting daycare in children less than one year of age. It is also important to have your child vaccinated for influenza and pneumococcal infections.

Luckily most kid's ear infections will improve on their own in seven to ten days. Symptomatic treatment of pain and fever is all that is really needed. However, if you feel your child is very ill, make sure you see a doctor and use the antibiotic prescribed appropriately.

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■ PORT CARES: Closer to capital campaign target

'People are truly recognizing the need'

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Every little bit helps Port Cares inch closer to its capital campaign target. The agency has been working since mid-June to collect funds to support the much-needed expansion at its Nickel St. venue.

Since the campaign was launched, Port Cares has been able to raise \$785,000 of its goal of just more than \$1 million. The federal and provincial governments each pitched in \$335,000 in infrastructure stimulus funding for the project, and locally the community has donated \$15,000 thus far.

Once the construction and

renovation is completed, the Port Cares Reach Out Centre will nearly double in size and will include enough space to house a community food bank for the Port Colborne/Vainfleet area. The centre will also include seating for 100 people, providing more space for clients of the agency's meal program. Last year, Port Cares served 14,600 meals to people in the community.

"People are truly recognizing the need," said development officer Sean Swick-Janjan. "They're recognizing the Reach Out Centre offers necessary services to the people of Port Colborne."

She said the community has "really been stepping up" and

donating what it can toward the project.

Several corporations as well as local businesses and individuals have all been making contributions of both monetary donations and in-kind services, she said. Canadian Niagara Power Inc. stopped by the centre to make a \$6,500 donation.

No matter how large or small a donation is, Swick-Janjan said it's all appreciated by the agency and contributes toward helping the community.

She said it's touching to see people doing what they can to help, citing a client of the centre who "gave what she could afford" for the campaign.

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■ PORT CARES DONATION



Supplied photos

Doctors, nurses, support staff, administration and the staff at NewPort all chipped in and made a phenomenal donation of \$1,000 to Port Cares. Shown are, front row, Violet Carter, Jean Larabee, Jan Wilson, Kathy McQuire, Jack Benes and Mary Anne Feagan, and back row, Laura Blakely, Dr. Lutterman, Brenda Breton and Wendy Robb.

■ PUBLIC SAFETY

Busy New Year's Eve for Port Colborne firefighters

PORT COLBORNE — Two calls to incidents kept Port Colborne firefighters busy last Friday evening.

Their first response was to a fuel spill in a ditch on Snider Rd., west of Hwy. 140.

Fire Chief Tom Cartwright said some furnace oil seeped into the ground and migrated into a ditch.

Firefighters were able to absorb some of the oil with socks and pads.

The incident has been

turned over to the Ministry of the Environment, the chief said.

The second call was a shed fire on Chippawa Rd. Mike Bendia, fire prevention officer, said a wood stove caused the fire in the

shed, adding that the fire was ruled accidental. Bendia said that despite the holiday the department was not short-stuffed during the weekend as firefighters on duty were supplemented with volunteers.



PORT COLBORNE Mayor's New Years Levee

Sunday, January 9, 2011
1:00pm to 4:00pm

Council Chambers
66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne

~ Everyone Welcome ~



Township of Wainfleet residents are cordially invited to attend the Mayor's New Year Levee

Date: Saturday, January 8th, 2011

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Township Council Chambers

Bringing in the New Year with your elected officials for the Township of Wainfleet

■ LIONS: Looking for new blood

'People don't want to be bogged down with too much to do'

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — When Martin Van Gool became a Wainfleet Lion 45 years ago, he was the club's 57th member.

Though the Lions are still filled with pride, their numbers have since declined. With 18 active members currently assisting with projects in the community, the club is still alive and well but aching — make that, roaring — to find some new blood.

The Lions aren't the only ones on the hunt for new members. Service clubs in both Port Colborne and Wainfleet have been working to up their numbers and to retain their current volunteers.

Many Lions remain members for their rest of their lives once they join. Van Gool said, it's just getting them through the door in the first place that can be the challenge.

"Things have changed," he said, adding the hustle and bustle of daily life seems to keep many residents from dipping their feet in the service club pool.

"People don't want to be bogged down with too much to do."

Despite being a small but still mighty group, Van Gool said the Wainfleet Lions continue to host a number of fundraising projects each year and volunteer at events, such as the Wainfleet Fall Fair, Wainfleet Food Drive and Marshville Heritage Festival.

Another small group, the Optimist Club of Port Colborne, has found itself "slowly growing" in recent years, a trend that Carole Newman, the club's secretary, hopes will continue with two new members already slated to be sworn into the 16-member club in January.

"It means fresh minds and

extra hands," Newman said, adding that new members mean new ideas that can only benefit the club.

While still continuing on with its annual projects, such as the Canal Days craft show and Optimist Day in the Park, the group will this year be experimenting with some of those new ideas.

A ladies night fundraiser will take place in April, offering "everything you need to help a lady relax and unwind," including music, food and even psychic readings, Newman said.

Had it not been for a new member's suggestion, the idea of a ladies night may have never come forward, she added.

While the Rotary Club of Port Colborne Centennial would also like to see new members at the table, it isn't the main focus of the group, president Rob Stevens said.

Instead, the club has put

attention on making meetings enjoyable for members and newcomers, keeping each get-together "fun and informal."

By building on the camaraderie, Stevens said members are not only more likely to remain with the club, but are also more likely to share their positive experiences with other potential Rotarians.

"It's about having fun and all coming together with the purpose of doing something good for the community."

In recent years, the Rotary Club worked to raise funds to build two Habitat for Humanity homes in Port Colborne.

With those major projects now complete, Stevens said this year the group has been taking on a lot of smaller initiatives, such as the Santa's Helpers Toy Drive and Port Colborne Family Literacy Event.

mfrth@wellandtribune.ca

■ CHALLENGE

Could you live on a food bank diet?

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — During the holiday season, people donate more to food banks and charities, but often don't know what it's like to live on a food bank diet.

Next month, more than 20 individuals and groups in Port Colborne will live on a food bank diet for a minimum of three days.

The diet is part of the Put Food in the Budget initiative — www.putfoodinthebudget.ca — which is lobbying the government to increase monthly social assistance payments by \$100 so people can purchase food instead of relying solely on food banks.

Port Colborne and a group of about 20 in Port Erie are among 30 communities across Ontario that have or will take part in the challenge where people must only eat items such as cereal, powdered milk, canned soup, Kraft Dinner, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat and canned fish.

Participants are being asked

to limit their diets to those items because it's not often that food banks receive fresh produce, proteins and dairy products.

Port Colborne's event was organized by the Bridges Community Health Centre's youth promotion team with health promoter Lori Kleinsmith, who is also taking part in the challenge.

On Wednesday Jan. 12, individuals, people from the Hope Centre and Port Cares, people from Grimsby and even Welland MP Malcolm Allen will begin the challenge with basic food staples provided by Kleinsmith. On Jan. 20, participants will meet once again at the Guild Hall from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to discuss the experience.

She was very pleased with the response for the diet and said people who want to take part can receive a list of items to purchase.

"It's a small sacrifice to make to really experience first hand what it's like."

To receive a list of items for the challenge or for more information, contact Kleinsmith at 288-479-5017 ext. 2445



Humblerstone Lions Club is celebrating 50 years of community service this year. Club president Gary Hoyle and Percy Hoyle accept a plaque from Mayor Vane Badaway commemorating the golden anniversary during a city council meeting in this Oct. 2010 file photo.

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■ NIAGARA PROSPERITY INITIATIVE: Helping communities

Looking toward a healthier east side in Port Colborne

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Through a survey, Mary Anne Feagan wanted to learn what residents in Port Colborne's east side need and what they think are the positive traits of their community.

The Niagara Prosperity Initiative community developer was surprised when more than 200 surveys were returned and 81% indicated a desire for more children's services.

Sixty-six per cent want to see their community cleaned up, with Nickel Beach and Victoria Park improved, and 56% want more retail stores. "It showed me people care," Feagan says.

As part of the NPI exercise, community forums were held.

From those forums, four groups have been formed to tackle remaining the east side and promotional events, to improve property standards to boost the neighbourhood's exuberance, to increase youth programs, to increase mental health services and support for single parents.

Feagan manages the Port Cares Reach Out Centre, which has been designated as a Good Food Box depot where for a reduced price, clients can purchase boxes with fresh produce.

Thanks to funds from the Niagara Prosperity Initiative, clients can take part in cooking circles where Reach Out Centre staff teach them to cook recipes with items from the Good Food Box.

"It really does make you eat good food and some of our participants may not have been exposed to different foods," she says of items such as eggplant or avocados.

"The idea was to help improve the prosperity of individuals and we're helping to improve their health."

Through testimonials collected from clients who have taken advantage of Niagara Prosperity Initiative projects, Feagan says Port Colborne has measured the most success to date.

One of the NPI's success stories is Cheryl Janeway. The Port Colborne resident began taking advantage of the Good Food Box and has also been taking part in cooking circles.

After visiting the Bridges Community Health Centre, she learned she had high cholesterol.

Once she began using ingredients in the Good Food Box, she began cooking healthier food for herself and her husband, Janeway says their health has since improved.

She joins about a dozen participants each month who learn new recipes to make meals with their food box items.

PORT COLBORNE
PROJECTS

■ Community Living after school and summer recreation programs

■ Niagara Catholic District School Board activities to engage the community and promote active, healthy lifestyles

■ Family and Children's Services Niagara's reading programs for children and parents

■ Bridges Community Health Centre peer-led program to enhance the health of youth in Port Erie, Port Colborne and Wainfleet

■ Niagara Nutrition partners distribution of promotional information and presentations on school food nutrition programs

■ St. James and St. Brendan's Anglican parish taught families to preserve food and market it for extra income

■ Port Cares community food bank project will teach families how to provide more nutritional meals using local produce

■ Hope Furniture Bank and Port Cares



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Cheryl Janeway and Lakeshore Catholic High School student Carlie Smith make a carrot, celery and raisin salad during a cooking circle at the Port Cares Reach Out Centre. The circles are held so people who receive food in the Good Food Box can make healthy meals with the fresh produce they receive.

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■ BIRTHDAYS: Girls donate presents



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Mckalah Owens and Mackenzie Furry decided to use their Christmas birthdays to raise awareness and donations for others in the Port Colborne area who are not as fortunate.

Helping the less fortunate at Christmas

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Two Grade 3 Steele Street School decided to use their Christmas birthdays to raise awareness and donations for others in the Port Colborne area that are not as fortunate.

Mackenzie Furry and Mckalah Owens inspired by another student who used her birthday to collect donations for the Lions

Food Drive.

With their birthdays, falling at Christmas time — Mackenzie on Dec. 23 and Mckalah Dec. 28 — the two found it is often difficult to celebrate with friends.

This year they wanted it early, so they could help the community and were thrilled at the opportunity to have a party with their school friends.

On Sunday Dec. 12, the girls celebrated their 8th

birthdays with a party at Port Colborne Centennial Pool with friends from school and family.

Altogether at the end of the party there was over \$200 in gift cards as well as toy donations.

Steele Street School has been very active in raising socially minded students with food drives, Samaritan's purse and adopting families for the Port Cares Christmas.

■ DONATION: Vegetables and cash given to Reach Out Centre

It all started with blue hubbards

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Kathy McQuire, an registered nurse at Port Colborne General Hospital, came to Port Cares Reach Out Centre last month to inquire if her 45 pound hubbard squash could be put to good use.

The squash was accepted by staff and was used in the Christmas meal at the Reach Out Centre on December 23 where approximately 75 people enjoyed a Christmas luncheon with all the trimmings.

"This year instead of a gift exchange our staff wanted to pool our resources and make a difference," said McQuire.

Doctors, nurses, support staff, administration and the staff at NewPort all chipped in and made a phenomenal donation of \$1,000.

This is a fabulous Christmas story, said Feagan, manager of the Reach Out Centre.

"The generosity and the enthusiasm of the donors is overwhelming."

The money will be used to purchase food vouchers for families. It's a miraculous Christmas gift"



supplied photo

Kathy McQuire, a registered nurse at Port Colborne General Hospital, came to Port Cares Reach Out Centre last month to inquire if her 45 pound hubbard squash could be put to good use.

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■ GATORPALOOZA



Supplied photo

Frank Warman, Chris Madronich and Alex Storace perform in the Lakeshore Catholic High School Gatorpalooza concert. The highly successful and sold-out show featured eight bands performing for the student body in early November.

■ SEASONAL SQUARE DANCING



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Grade 8 students from Ecole Saint Joseph entertained seniors with square dancing at Port Village. They also sang five French songs and three English songs during their 30-minute performance.

RECIPE of the Week

January 7th to January 20th, 2011

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■ CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Kudos were given to winners of Port Colborne's annual Christmas card contest during Monday night's city council meeting. The cards will be sent out on behalf of the city to more than 850 people across Canada and around the world. Pictured from left are Kattryn Mullins, Bradley Taylor, Mayor Vance Badawey, Katie Ruzycyl and Austin Warner. Absent from the photo is winner Amanda Adams whose card design is held by Badawey.



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■ NEW YEAR'S

Mayors holding levees to welcome 2011



April Jeffs

InPort News

WAINFLEET — With the new year comes changes to local municipalities.

To help address constituent concerns, Wainfleet and Port Colborne mayors will hold new year levees where they will have the opportunity to chat with residents.

Wainfleet Mayor April

“People in general seem pretty excited we have a new council. It seems like a really positive feeling.”

April Jeffs, Wainfleet mayor

Jeffs will hold her first levee on Saturday, Jan. 8, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., in council chambers with fellow council members.

“I’m anticipating a lot of people will come out,” she said.

“People in general seem pretty excited we have a new

council. It seems like it’s a really positive feeling.”

Mayor Vance Badawey will hold his levee in Port Colborne council chambers at city hall on Sunday, Jan. 9, at 1 p.m.

Badawey said between 30 and 40 people usually turn out for the levee, which he has held since he first became mayor.



Vance Badawey

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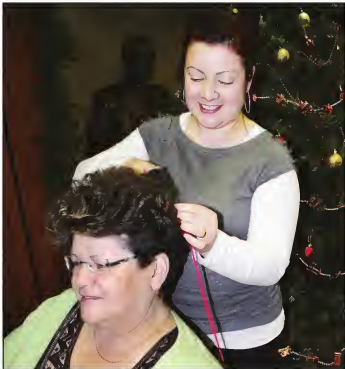
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■ PINK HAIR EXTENSIONS FOR CHARITY



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

A number of staff and visitors to Port Colborne General Hospital had a pink extension put in their hair in early December to support Ontario breast screening programs. LA Hair Tec's Julia Borg was asking for a \$10 donation for each extension, with about \$8.50 going towards the screening programs. She is pictured putting an extension in the hair of the hospital foundation's Debbie Spraggett. Within two hours Borg raised \$180.

■ SURPRISE DONATION



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Keith and Cheryl Sullivan made a surprise \$1,000 donation last week to Mary Anne Feagan, centre, Port Cares Reach Out Centre manager. The couple said Port Cares has helped them in the past when they needed it and the two, who volunteer at the centre, decided to give something back. Feagan, who was overwhelmed by the donation, said it would go toward the capital fund for the centre's expansion.

■ PORT CARES AND THE PIRATES



Supplied photo

Tim Toffolo and his Port Colborne Pirates put smiles on the faces of guests that attended the Port Cares Reach Out Centre on Friday, Dec. 17. Shown are Brent Kovacs, long time Pirates volunteer, Carson Minor, Pirates player, Tim Toffolo, Pirates general manager and Dillon Rivier, Pirates player. Tim and his team prepared and served a turkey meal with all the trimmings to over 100 people who came out for dinner. "The Pirates have always looked at ways to support the community. It's important for us to think of others at Christmas and this was a great opportunity for our players to learn about life," said Toffolo.

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ALONG THE LAKESHORE

MONDAY, JAN. 10

Port Colborne Historical Society will meet at 7 p.m. at Portia Village Retirement Home. Guest Penny Morningstar, curator Welland Museum will speak on The British Home Children Come to Canada. Call 905-835-2291 for more information.

AT THE PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Kids' Yoga with Nadia Espinoza. For ages 4 to 11. Tues-

days, from 4 to 5 p.m. New 8 week session begins Tuesday, January 18th to March 8th. Cost: \$35.00, or \$5.00 per drop-in. To register call Nadia at 905-329-9841.

Knitting Classes: The 10-week Winter session starts Tues., Jan. 11th, 7 to 9 p.m. and Thurs. Jan. 13th, 1 to 3 p.m. For more information or to join the Knitters' Club, call Vicki Fietz at 905-835-5373.

Small Hands Studio: Art

Workshops for Children. With Kelly Langley Davies. Painting, drawing and sculpting. Mondays, 6 pm to 7:30 pm, January 10th to June 27th. Each five-week session costs \$65.00. Save \$5.00 per child per session when you book two or more siblings in the same session. Call Kelly at 905-834-8483 for more information.

Create with Kathleen: Adult art classes with Kathleen Thorsen of Stone House Art Gallery. Tuesdays, 10 to 12 noon, starting September 7th. Cost is \$10.00 per

class, materials supplied. For more information, contact Kathleen by phone at 905-834-9784 or by e-mail at kathleen.thorsen@cogeco.ca.

Express Yourself Writer's Workshop: With facilitators Kitty and Gary Roy. Thursdays, 6 pm. to 8 pm. Explore your own abilities to express your thoughts, emotions and dreams using the written word. Receive critiques on your works in a non-judgmental forum. Get practical information on getting published. For more informa-

tion, contact the facilitators at groy10@cogeco.ca or call the Library at 905-834-6512.

Art in the Atrium: "The Subject is Clear: an Exhibition of Paintings in Pastel" by Roy Beecher. In the Atrium, October 15, 2010 to January 15, 2011.

ONGOING

March of Dimes is celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2011 and needs your help. The charity is seeking volunteers in Welland and Port Colborne to help support its

Door-to-Door Campaign in January. Please join a 25-year tradition of generosity and help children and adults with disabilities in your community. We still need canvassers and captains to join the campaign. For more information or to volunteer please call 1-800-263-3463 ext. 7705 or e-mail door-to-door@marchofdimes.ca. To learn more about March of Dimes' programs and services for people with disabilities, please visit www.marchofdimes.ca.



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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on behalf of YMCA OF NIAGARA application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario for an Act to amend The Young Men's Christian Association of St. Catharines Act, 1929 to provide that YMCA of Niagara may acquire and hold real property or any interest in real property in The Regional Municipality of Niagara. YMCA of Niagara may establish branch associations in The Regional Municipality of Niagara, and beginning January 1, 2010 land, as defined in the Assessment Act, in The Regional Municipality of Niagara, is exempt for taxation for municipal and school purposes, except for local improvement rates, if it is occupied by and used solely for the purposes of YMCA of Niagara and if YMCA of Niagara is a registered charity within the meaning of the Income Tax Act (Canada).

The application will be considered by the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills. Any person who has an interest in the application and who wishes to make submissions, for or against the application, to the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills should notify, in writing, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2.

Dated at the City of St. Catharines this 8th day of December, 2010.

J. Rodney Bush
Solicitor for the Applicant
Sullivan Mahoney LLP
Lawyers
40 Queen Street, P.O. Box 1360
St. Catharines, ON L2R 6Z2
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■ WRITER: Book on sale at museum

Asnapshot in time for Port

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — As a freelance writer, Joan Scapillato interviewed hundreds of people over the 10 years she worked for InPort News and The Tribune.

She interviewed a variety of people: seniors, volunteers and young people trying to better themselves. "These people fascinated me," Scapillato said recently at Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum's L.R. Wilson Heritage Archives. "I'm intrigued by people."

The retired writer was recently in the archives to talk about her book *Port People: Builders and Shapers of Our Community and Community*. Stories in her book are a snapshot in time, "the story of that person in the short time I interviewed them."

"It's important to record not just events, but stories about the people who contributed to the community."

Many of her subjects were

community volunteers, people who weren't seeking publicity, but rather only wanted to help others. Others were youth, such as those who may have belonged to sea or air cadets, or been valedictorians at their high school.

Scapillato never did follow up interviews with any of her subjects and said, "maybe some of the people never ended up doing what they were going to in life."

Over the years, Scapillato clipped out all of her stories and kept them at home.

"I kept the clippings for business purposes as a freelancer, in case I was audited," she said.

She gave them to the museum in 2005.

When she started to volunteer at the museum, one of the projects curator Stephanie Powell Baswick had her work on was indexing the collection of clippings. It was a lot of work.

"She told her son about it, and he said the clippings

would be typed up," Powell Baswick recalled.

Scapillato's son and daughter-in-law started to transcribe all of the articles. Heritage research technician Michelle Vosburgh helped edit copy as it came back.

"Tim said it should be a book," said Scapillato. "I never set out to write a book, it wasn't something I planned."

But the museum has the resources to publish a book. It has published several by Don Anger, husband of former museum curator Virginia Anger.

A cross-section of stories, about 80, were picked for *Port People: Builders and Shapers of our Culture and Community*. Most of the stories have photos of the people that were interviewed. Scapillato wrote an introduction to the book and artist John North offered up one of his paintings for the front cover.

But the \$15 book is on sale the museum.

djohnson@weilandtribune.ca

LEGION VISIT



Supplied photo
Members of The Port Colborne Legion Branch 56 recently paid a visit to Northland Pointe before Christmas, with candy canes, roses and holiday greetings to all of the residents.

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■ AUTONET: 2011 Chevrolet Camaro convertible

Camaro lets the sun shine in

JOE DUARTE
 QMI Agency



QMI Photo

The 2011 Camaro Convertible.

The 2011 Chevrolet Camaro goes into production in January 2011 and drives into showrooms in February with an enhanced body structure (for reduced cowl and steering wheel shake), well-tailored soft top (with acoustic foam for a coupe-like cabin ambience) and similar trim designations to its full-bodied sibling.

The new Camaro was originally designed to accommodate a convertible model. As such, four strategic reinforcements - tower-to-tower brace under the hood; transmission support reinforcement brace; underbody tunnel brace; front and rear underbody "Y" braces - make for a stiff body structure to eliminate common convertible maladies. A telling example of the Camaro convertible's body stiffness is evidenced in suspension tuning - specifically, the lack of changes from the coupe model - resulting in performance capabilities nearly identical between the two models.

"To compensate for the reduced structure of an open car, engineers often will make the suspension softer, making the convertible a boulevard cruiser," says Oppenheiser. "We didn't change a strut, bushing or spring rate from the Camaro coupe."

As for the top, designers and engineers wanted to eliminate the typical support-rib appearance of a convertible top. By revising the structural components, extending the top material below the belt line and revising the stretch lines, they were able to create a smooth, art, tailored appearance reminiscent of a sleek coupe roofline. In just 20 seconds, the heavy canvas structure folds in the same "Z" manner as the Corvette convertible at the push of a button and, likewise, features a single windshield centre header latch. It also holds a glass rear window with defogger.

A folding one-piece tonneau cover finishes off the open-air profile, and a wind-scraper is available as an accessory. A sub-woofer is located in the trunk between

Fact file

2011 Chevrolet Camaro convertible
MSRP range: \$33,995-\$47,355

Notable options: body cladding; premium sound system; automatic transmission.

Configuration: front engine/rear-wheel drive

Available engines: 3.6L V6 (312 hp/228 lb.-ft.); 6.2L V8 (404/410); 6.2L V8 (426/420)

Available transmissions: 6-speed manual; 6-speed auto with sequential shift

Fuel: Regular (V6); Premium recommended (V8)

Fuel economy ratings (city/highway): 11.2/6.6 (V6 auto); 13.2/8.2 (V8 manual); 13.3/8.0 (V8 auto)

Competitors: Ford Mustang; Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder

the rear seats and rear parking assist is standard.

Camaro convertible comes in nine production exterior colours are available, with tops offered in black or silver.

For advanced promotion, General Motors auctioned off the right to purchase one of the first convertibles at the Barrett-Jackson auction for \$205,000, with all proceeds going to charity. Also 100 exclusive models with custom elements made the 2011 Neiman Marcus Christmas book at a buy-in of \$75,000; they sold out in three minutes.

Standard power will come from the 312-horsepower direct injection V6 engine (in the LT, which starts at \$33,995), with more performance minded types perhaps opting for the SS models (starting at \$43,255) or the 6.2-litre V8 that produces 400 or 426 horsepower, depending on whether its linked to a six-speed manual or six-speed manual transmission, respectively (the manual is standard with either trim).

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